

1 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

2 **IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA**

3 In the Matter of

Board Case No. MD-99-0517

4 **LOUIS FLORES, M.D.**

Investigation No. 13000

6 Holder of License No. **22613**
7 For the Practice of Medicine
8 In the State of Arizona.

**FINDINGS OF FACT,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
AND ORDER**

(Probation)

9 This matter was considered by the Arizona Board of Medical Examiners ("Board")
10 at its public meeting on June 21, 2001. Louis Flores, M.D., ("Respondent") appeared
11 before the Board without legal counsel for a formal interview pursuant to the authority
12 vested in the Board by A.R.S. § 32-1451(G). After due consideration of the facts and law
13 applicable to this matter, the Board voted to issue the following findings of fact,
14 conclusions of law and order.
15

16 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

17 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of
18 the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

19 2. Respondent is the holder of License No. 22613 for the practice of medicine
20 in the State of Arizona.

21 3. Investigation Number 13000 was initiated following the complaint of the
22 spouse of a patient ("Patient") treated by Respondent.

23 4. On February 26, 1999, Patient presented to a CIGNA Urgent Care facility
24 ("Urgent Care") complaining of sharp, stabbing pain in his back. Patient reported to
25 Respondent that he believed the pain was the result of lifting a tool box into his vehicle.

5. Respondent examined the Patient, determined the cause of the pain to be musculoskeletal strain and prescribed Vicodin and Flexeril.

6. After Patient left Urgent Care his pain worsened. Four hours later he returned to see Respondent. Patient's chart reflects that upon his return he was diaphoretic and bent over.

7. Respondent treated Patient with IV Demerol, provided Demerol tablets and instructed him to return if needed.

8. Patient's pain persisted and two days later his wife found him incoherent. Patient was transported to Phoenix Baptist Emergency Room where a CT Scan revealed a large leaking abdominal aortic aneurysm.

9. Emergency surgery was performed to repair the aneurysm, but the patient never recovered and passed away on March 2, 1999.

10. Respondent failed to meet the standard of care by failing to consider alternative causes of Patient's pain including abdominal aortic aneurysm.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board of Medical Examiners of the State of Arizona possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over Respondent.

2. The Board has received substantial evidence supporting the Findings of Fact described above and said findings constitute unprofessional conduct or other grounds for the Board to take disciplinary action.

3. The conduct and circumstances above in paragraph 10 constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(g) “[a]ny conduct or practice which is or might be harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public.”

1 **ORDER**

2 Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law,

3 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

4 Respondent is placed on probation for a period of one (1) year effective from the
5 date of this Order, during which time he will obtain 40 hours of Board Staff pre-approved
6 Continuing Medical Education ("CME") in the evaluation of back pain and abdominal pain,
7 including abdominal aortic aneurysm. Respondent will provide Board Staff with
8 satisfactory proof of attendance. The CME hours shall be in addition to the hours
9 required for the biennial renewal of Respondent's medical license.

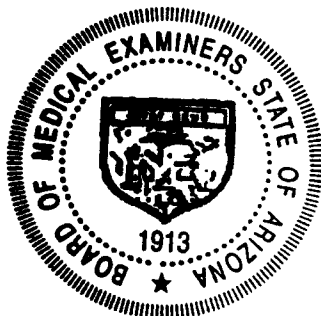
10 **RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REVIEW**

11 Respondent is hereby notified that he has the right to petition for a rehearing.
12 Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092.09, as amended, the petition for rehearing must be filed
13 with the Board's Executive Director within thirty (30) days after service of this Order and
14 pursuant to A.A.C. R4-16-102, it must set forth legally sufficient reasons for granting a
15 rehearing. Service of this order is effective five (5) days after date of mailing. If a motion
16 for rehearing is not filed, the Board's Order becomes effective thirty-five (35) days after it
17 is mailed to Respondent.

18 Respondent is further notified that the filing of a motion for rehearing is required to
19 preserve any rights of appeal to the Superior Court.

20 DATED this 18 day of July, 2001.

21 BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
22 OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA



By Claudia Foutz
CLAUDIA FOUTZ
Executive Director

TOM ADAMS
Deputy Director

ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this
18 day of July, 2001 with:

The Arizona Board of Medical Examiners
9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

Executed copy of the foregoing
mailed by U.S. Certified Mail this
18 day of July, 2001, to:

Louis Flores, M.D.
21551 North 57th Avenue
Glendale, Arizona 85308-6228

Copy of the foregoing hand-delivered this
18 day of July, 2001, to:

Christine Cassetta
Assistant Attorney General
c/o Arizona Board of Medical Examiners
9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85258
Counsel for the Board

